

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 PRS-01

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P R 060951Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 18898

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: AMERICAN NEWSMAN'S EXPULSION FROM INDIA

RICHARD CRITCHFIELD, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF WASHINGTON STAR ASKED US TO INFORM EMBASSY NEW DELHI HIS VERSION OF HIS EXPULSION FROM INDIA. AFTER PASSING THROUGH IMMIGRATION AT PALAM AIRPORT DECEMBER 5 HE WAS STOPPED BY SIX POLICEMEN WHO INFORMED HIM HE HAD BEEN BANNED FROM LANDING IN INDIA. WHEN CRITCHFIELD EXPLAINED HE WAS IN TRANSIT FROM NEPAL TO PAKISTAN AND HAD A VALID TICKET TO LAHORE FOR DECEMBER 8 OR THAT HE WOULD EVEN CATCH THE NEXT PLANE TO KARACHI THAT AFTERNOON, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE SAID "WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STOP YOU FROM LANDING EVEN IF YOU HAVE A VALID TRANSIT VISA AND A FORWARD BOOKING." CRITCHFIELD REQUESTED TO BE ALLOWED TO TELEPHONE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND WAS REFUSED. BY THIS TIME THE ROYAL NEPAL AIRLINE BOEING 707 ON WHICH CRITCHFIELD HAD ARRIVED FULL OF TOURISTS, HAD BEEN PREVENTED BY THE POLICE FROM TAKING OFF FOR NEARLY HALF AN HOUR. BECAUSE AIRLINE OFFICIALS WERE FRANTIC AT THE DELAY, CRITCHFIELD AGREED TO BOARD THE PLANE AND RETURN TO KATHMANDU. IN KATHMANDU CRITCH-

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FIELD TELEPHONED FRAND TATU AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND

EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED, SAYING HE WOULD FLY ON TO BANGKOK AND RETURN TO PAKISTAN BY SOME OTHER ROUTE. CRITCHFIELD HAD JUST INTERVIEWED THE KING OF NEPAL, AND TATU AGREED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FLY OUR IMMEDIATELY RATHER THAN CREATE A FLAP. HE ALSO ADVISED CRITCHFIELD TO SEND EMBASSY DELHI A CABLE FROM BANGKOK. CRITCHFIELD NOW PLANS TO RETURN ON A NON-STOP FLIGHT TO PAKISTAN AND WILL WRITE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN. CRITCHFIELD HAS NO IDEA WHY THIS HAPPENED AS HE HAS NOT REPORTED ON INDIA SINCE 1965 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE FEATURE ARTICLE FROM CALCUTTA FOR THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WHICH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED YET. HE SPENT FIVE MONTHS IN INDIA IN EARLY 1970 DOING RESEARCH FOR A BOOK IN THE PUNJAB WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. IN THREE WEEKS. THE BOOK IS CALLED "THE GOLDEN BOWL BE BROKEN: PEASANT LIFE IN FOUR CULTURES." CRITCHFIELD WILL BE IN BANGKOK THROUGH DECEMBER 9 IF EMBASSY DELHI DESIRES FURTHER INFORMATION. KINTNER

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